

1210 EAST TWELFTH AVENUE (House)
Ybor City
Tampa
Hillsborough County
Florida

HABS No. FL-574

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Southeast Regional Office
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
100 Alabama Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

1210 EAST TWELFTH AVENUE (House)

HABS No. FL-574

Location: 1210 East Twelfth Avenue, Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida.

Significance: This building's architectural and historical significance is derived from its contribution to the Ybor City National Register Historic Landmark District. Ybor City is a section of Tampa founded and built by Vicente M. Ybor and Ignacio Haya as a cigar-manufacturing center and town. This company town was planned by Gavino Gutierrez to include cigar factories, workers housing, public spaces, and commercial buildings. This district is significant for its importance to Tampa's architectural heritage, as it contains many of the City's best remaining examples of late-nineteenth century and early-twentieth century domestic, religious, commercial, and industrial buildings. This residence is also significant as the family home of Al Lopez, a prominent catcher and manager who is included in the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

Description: This rectangular, one-story private residence has a wood frame structural system and rests on concrete piers with lattice infill in some places. The gable roof is surfaced with composition shingles. The exterior is sheathed in drop siding with wood cornerboards. The porch is supported by fluted tapered columns atop brick piers, with a wood slat railing that rests on a poured concrete landing. The original windows have been replaced, and current fenestration consists of metal single-hung-sash windows with one-over-one and two-over-two light configurations. Exterior ornamentation includes rafter tails, vents in gable faces, lattice, and security bars over windows. The front door opens into a central hallway, with a front bedroom on either side. The hallway leads to the living room, and there is another bedroom on the west, opposite the living room, which is accessed from the rear kitchen. The northernmost rooms are the kitchen and bathroom. The interior has been remodeled, and is lacking in historical details.

History: Ybor City was platted in the 1890s and was completely built out by the mid-1920s. This residence was built ca. 1911 in the Randall's Addition Subdivision. The house is located on the north side of East Twelfth Avenue, between North Tenth Street and North Twelfth Street, within the larger area of Ybor City that contained residences, factories, and commercial buildings. This residence is the family home of Al Lopez, a National Baseball Hall of Fame catcher and manager.

Lopez's parents, Modesto and Faustina, first moved from Spain to Cuba in the 1890s. By 1906, the couple had seven children, and Modesto, a cigar factory worker, decided to migrate again, this time to Ybor City. Modesto immigrated first and was followed by his wife and children several months later. Alfonso Ramón Lopez was born in Ybor City on August 20, 1908 (Singletary 1999:9-11). City directory records first list the Lopez family as living at 1210 East Twelfth Avenue in 1917. Initially, they rented the house, and later purchased it (Singletary 1999:11). The house remained in the Lopez family until 1960 (Singletary 1999:11). Modesto Lopez died in 1926 (Singletary 1999:110) and in city directory records, the house continued to

be listed in Faustina Lopez's name until 1952. After that, the house is listed in Al Lopez's name until 1959.

Al Lopez's baseball career began in 1925 with Tampa's minor league team, the Smokers. He was only 16 years old at the time (Singletary 1999:18) and his family would have been living at 1210 East Twelfth Avenue during these years. He soon went on to play in the major league; his profile in the National Baseball Hall of Fame lists the following teams: the Brooklyn Robins/Dodgers (1928-1935), the Boston Braves (1936-1940), the Pittsburgh Pirates (1940-1946), and the Cleveland Indians (1947). He played the position of catcher, and held the record for most games caught (1,918) for over forty years (National Baseball Hall of Fame Museum n.d.). Al Lopez is equally well known for his great success as a manager. He managed the Cleveland Indians from 1952 until 1956, and the Chicago White Sox from 1957 till 1969. As manager, Lopez never had a losing record, and managed the only two teams to interrupt the New York Yankees American League win streak which lasted from 1949 until 1964 (National Baseball Hall of Fame Museum n.d.). Ultimately, Lopez spent 19 years as a player and 17 as a manager. He was baseball's first Hispanic manager (Singletary 2006:16) and earned the nickname "El Señor" for his "gentlemanly nature" (George 2005).

Faustina Lopez lived in her home at 1210 East Twelfth Avenue until her death, and for as long as the house remained in the family, Lopez continued to return to it during baseball's off season. After Lopez's marriage, his wife and son lived in the house with his mother during the school year, and joined Al up north when school was out (Singletary 1999:98-99).

Al Lopez remains a beloved figure in Ybor City. The now-demolished Al Lopez Field was named for him in 1954, and the current Al Lopez Park features a bronze statue of Mr. Lopez as a catcher. He also threw the first pitch at the first Devil Rays game (Johnston 2005). Al Lopez passed away in 2005, and continued to call Tampa Bay his home till the day he died (Johnston 2005). His obituary speaks of him as "the pride of Tampa Latinos," and "a hero to the community" (George 2005). The house at 1210 East Twelfth Avenue represents Al Lopez's strong lifelong ties to Ybor City. This house was where Al Lopez was living when he first got his start, and it continued to be his home base throughout the bulk of his long, illustrious career.

Sources:

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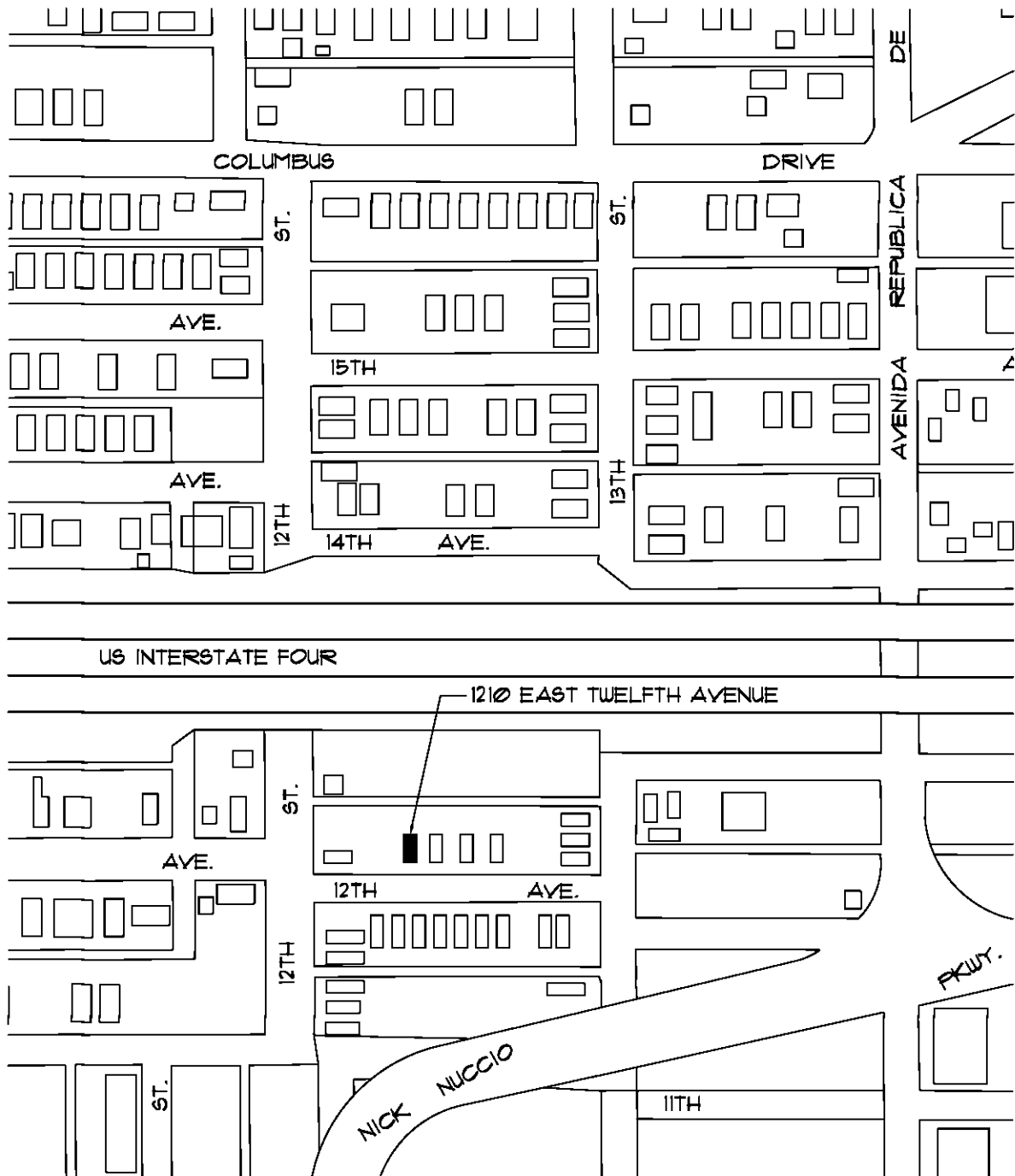
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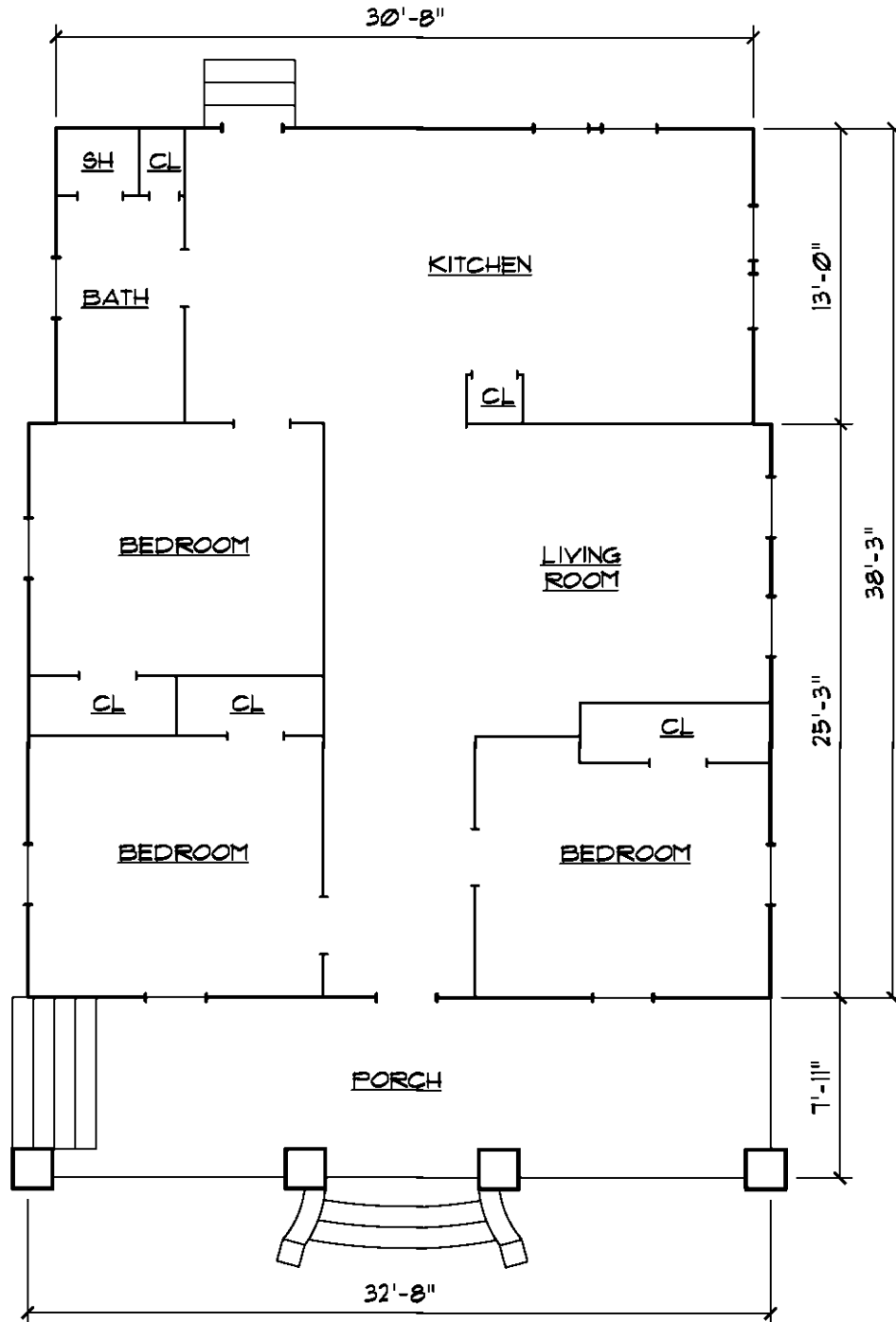
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Historian:

Julia Skowronski, Janus Research, September 14, 2010



LOCATION MAP	NOT TO SCALE	
DATE DRAWN: August 3, 2010 DRAWN BY: Jo-Anne Peck	1210 EAST TWELFTH AVENUE (House) YBOR CITY, TAMPA, FL	



FLOOR PLAN SKETCH

SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

DATE DRAWN: August 2, 2010
DRAWN BY: Jo-Anne Peck

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